agency the inferior quality of foodgrains, particularly, wheat, rice and sugar, have been procured for distribution through PDS and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) The Central Government makes bulk allocation of foodgrains and other PDS items to States|UTs. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been instructed to procure, store and supply foodgrains free from infestation and conforming to standards laid down in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) to State Governments and U.T. Administrations for public Distribution System (PDS). Opportunity is given to the State Governments or their Nominees to inspect the foodgrains in the godowns of FCI before taking delivery of the same. State Governments/U.T. Administrations have the right to reject the lot if it does not conform to the prescribed standards. Samples are drawn at the time of delivery and given to the State/U.T. Agencies which are to be displayed at the places where the grains are distributed.

Operational responsibility for implementing the PDS rests with the State Governments and U.T. Administrations which includes distribution of quality foodgrains and other PDS commodities through the Fair Price Shops within their jurisdiction. They have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act to take action against persons violating the provisions of the Act and Control Orders made thereunder. The Central Government has advised the States/UTs to set up Fair Price Shop (FPS) level vigilance Committee comprising representative of women voluntary organisations, persons belonging to SC ST communities and local consumers to ensure people's involvement in supervision of the PDS. Such Vigilance Committees are reported to have been set up by most State Governments.

The Central Government has not received any major complaint from State Governments|U.T. Administrations regarding poor quality foodgrains and other PDS items being distributed through the PDS. However, there have been complaints from consumers of poor quality PDS items being distributed through PDS. For effective and quick redressal, such grievances have to be looked into by the District Authorities in the State|U.Ts. Details of complaints received from individual consumers and consumer organisations are not maintained by the Central government.

All possible efforts are made by the Government to procure good quality foodgrains from producing States and to store them scientifically to avoid deterioration during storage. In a massive operation involving procurement of nearly twenty million tonnes of foodgrains and their distribution throughout the country, shortcomings in some places, at times cannot altogether be ruled out. However, it would not be correct to say that most of the foodgrains stored in the godowns of the State Civil Supplies Departments are exchanged for poor quality foodgrains in connivance with the concerned officials. No specific instances of this nature have been reported by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. State Governments|U.T. Administrations have the powers and the enforcement staff to take action against persons|officials indulging in such malpractices.

Report of the special committee on ESI and EPF

*113. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the report on arrears of Employees State Insurance Corporation and Employees Provident Fund submitted by a Special Committee under the Labour Consultative Committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Consultative Committee of Parliament in its meeting held on July 8, 1994 adopted the report of its Sub-Committe regarding the Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance dues. The Government has decided to have the report first considered by the ESI Corporation and the Central Board of Trustees, EPF Organisation discussion has also been held in the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of (EPFO).

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम के अस्पताल और चिकित्सा केन्द्र

*114. **श्री कामेश्वर पासवान** : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम के अस्पतालों और चिकित्सा केन्द्रों की दशा इतनी अधिक शोचनीय है कि अधिकांश चिकित्सा केन्द्रों पर आवश्यक दवायें और चिकित्सक तक उपलब्ध नहीं है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम की समस्याओं की जांच करने के लिए श्रम मंत्रालय की सलाहकार समिति के अंतर्गत नियुक्त उप-समिति ने भी उपरोक्त अनियमितताओं के संबंध में गंभीर टिप्पणियां की हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो चिकित्सा केन्द्रों पर ऐसी अनियमितताओं को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किए गए है?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. ए. संगमा) : (क) से (ग) कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा योजना के अंतर्गत कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा अस्पतालों/औषधालयों में उपस्करों दवाईयों एवं औषधियों की अनुपलब्धता, चिकित्सा तथा गैर-चिकित्सा कर्मचारियों की कमी की छुट-पुट शिकायतें मिली हैं । श्रम मंत्रालय की संसदीय परामर्शदात्री समिति की उप-समिति को कुछ अस्पतालों में इसी प्रकार की कमियों का पता चला है । तथापि समिति ने इन्द्रानगर-बंगलौर, सनत नगर-हैदराबाद एवं एम.जी.एम., बम्बई में स्थित कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा हस्पतालों के कार्य को संतोषजनक पाया है ।

दिल्ली और नौएडा को छोड़कर कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा योजना के अंतर्गत चिकित्सा देखरेख के प्रशासन का उत्तरदायित्व संबद्ध राज्य सरकारों पर है। अतः चिकित्सा देख-रेख में इस प्रकार की कमियों के बारे में शिकायतें संबंधित राज्य सरकारों को उपयुक्त उपचारात्मक कदम उठाने के लिए भेज दी जाती हैं । जहां तक उप-समिति की टिप्पणियों का प्रश्न है कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम ने समुचित कार्रवाई करने के लिए उन्हें नोट कर लिया है ।

राज्य मंत्रियों की सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली संबंधी समिति

*115. **श्री सुरेश पचौरी :**
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राज्य मंत्रियों की समिति द्वारा यह सिफारिश की गई थी कि सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली का लक्ष्य निर्धन वर्गों की ओर और अधिक ध्यान देने का होना चाहिए किन्तु इस संबंध में अब तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है ;